

# Ashtabula County Veteran's Services Commission

Quarterly Newsletter | ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2024 | [www.ashtabulaveterans.com](http://www.ashtabulaveterans.com) | 

1212 Lake Avenue | Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 | ((440)) 964-8324

## VSC Board of Commissioners

-  Mark Baker - Veterans of Foreign Wars - President
-  Roger Lynch - Disabled American Veterans - Vice President
-  Anna Allshouse - American Veterans - Secretary
-  Edward Somppi - Vietnam Veterans of America
-  Richard Arndt - American Legion

## VSC Staff

- Benjamin Schwartfigure - Director
- Libby Jenkins - Senior County Veterans Service Officer
- Thomas Lucas Jr. - Senior County Veterans Service Officer
- Aimee Borcicky - County Veterans Service Officer
- Carol Hoyt - Senior Office Manager
- Shane Graham - Driver & Administrative Assistant

## The VSC from January 2024 - June 2024

In 2023, our office processed 1,441 claims, generating \$2,299,146.62 in retroactive dollars being awarded to local veterans. So far this year, our Service Officers have submitted 346 claims and have already generated \$299,163.44 in retroactive awards. Our team is committed to advocate and assist the veterans of this county in obtaining all of the benefits that their service to this country has earned them. We urge all veterans to reach out to our office and allow us to perform a "Benefits Well-Check" to see what benefits can be applied for based on their service. Veterans have everything to gain and nothing to lose! If we are successful in our efforts, the results could be life changing. We are a free service and resource to the veterans of this community, so COME ON DOWN and let us be your advocate!

**VSC Transportation Program.** The VSC provides transportation to the Erie VA Medical Center and the Louis Stokes, Cleveland VA Medical Center on a daily basis. If you need a ride, please arrive to our office no later than 8 a.m. We will verify your eligibility for transportation, provide you with a VSC ID Card (if you don't already have one), manifest you and we leave by 8:15 a.m. daily. If we have veterans that need to go both directions, we activate our volunteer drivers and we go both directions. It's that simple! Eligibility for transportation through our office means that you have a DD214 on file with our office and you are in receipt of VA Healthcare benefits. Please make sure that your appointment times are between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to ensure that we are able

to transport you. Our driver must leave either facility no later than 2 p.m. to get back and reset for the next day's travel.



**The PACT Act and your VA benefits.** The PACT Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. And starting March 5, 2024, the VA is expanding health care to millions of Veterans, years earlier than called for by the PACT Act.

*What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?* The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. The PACT Act brought the following changes: It expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras; Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures; Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation; Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care; Helps the VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.



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# The VSC from January 2024 - June 2024 continued

*What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?* To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. But for some conditions, the VA automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. They call these “presumptive conditions.” The VA considers a condition presumptive when it’s established by law or regulation. If you have a presumptive condition, you don’t need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

*Am I eligible for VA health care under the PACT Act?*

You’re eligible to enroll now, without needing to apply for disability benefits first. If you meet the basic service and discharge requirements and any of these descriptions are true for you: You served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11; or You deployed in support of the Global War on Terror; or You were exposed to toxins or other hazards during military service at home or abroad. Specific toxins and hazards include burn pits, sand and dust, particulates, oil well or sulfur fires, chemicals, radiation, warfare agents, depleted uranium, herbicides, and other occupational hazards.

*Getting benefits - Can you still file claims for the PACT Act?* Yes. The PACT Act is here to stay, and Veterans and survivors can file for benefits anytime. The sooner you file, the sooner you can start getting your earned benefits. So don’t wait. File your claim or quickly submit your intent to file today.

*How do you file a disability claim for a new presumptive condition?* If you haven’t filed a claim yet for the

presumptive condition, Contact the VSC to have a service officer help you file; the VA denied your disability claim in the past and now your condition is considered a presumptive, you can submit a Supplemental Claim, the VA will review your case again. Contact the VSC to have a service officer help you file.

*The time it takes to review your claim depends on these factors:* The type of claim you filed; How many injuries or disabilities you claimed and how complex they are; How long it takes the VA to collect the evidence needed to decide your claim. The VA will process your claim with the utmost urgency to get you the benefits you deserve as quickly as possible. In the first year of the PACT Act, the VA completed 458,659 PACT Act-related claims delivering more than \$1.85 billion in earned benefits to Veterans and their survivors.

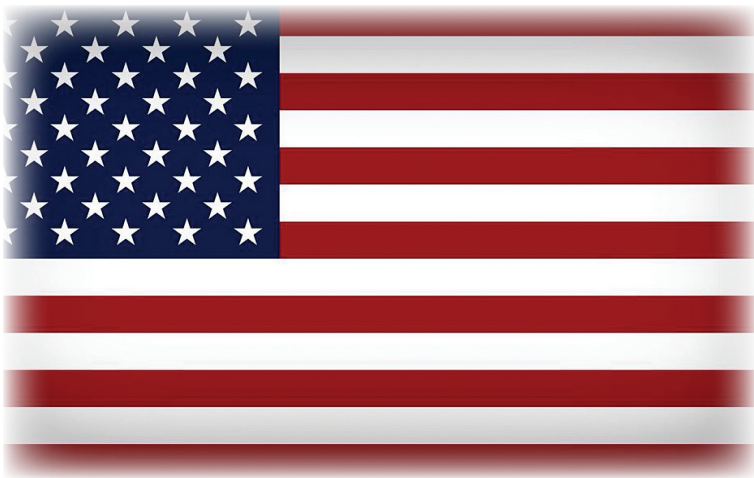
**Ohio Department of Veterans Service Press Release by Jeff Rapp, Chief Communications Officer [Aug. 30, 2021].**

Two years ago today – the United States officially ceased its military involvement in Afghanistan. As a result, the Ohio Veterans Bonus program associated with the Afghanistan Conflict, which the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) administers, is nearing its completion.

Through the support of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the State Legislature, a \$9.5 million measure was included in the state’s recently enacted biennial budget in order to sustain the program, which will sunset in one year. The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) authorized that transfer to our agency.

These funds will ensure that ODVS can make a rigorous final push to pay every eligible veteran — including those who may have been denied payment because of correctable technicalities or other impediments. The money total is based on Department of Defense deployment figures and the number of applicants and payouts that already have been made to Ohio veterans.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus program offers a bonus for those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces after October 7, 2001. Once a veteran has received \$500 for service anywhere in the world or \$1,000 for service in a designated country, or the maximum \$1,500 bonus, the veteran is not eligible for additional funds, even if they served in multiple conflicts. **Those service mem-**



# The VSC from January 2024 - June 2024 continued

bers who completed their deployments in Afghanistan and have not yet applied for the Ohio Veterans Bonus can do so up until Aug. 30, 2024.

Since 2010, the Ohio Veteran Bonus has paid \$77.7 million to more than 97,000 veterans from the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Wars. Historically, the vast majority of applicants are eligible. The current number of payouts for Ohioans who served in Afghanistan is 19,865.

(**Note:** This figure reflects the number of applications that have been paid, not the total number of recipients, since an applicant can apply until they receive the maximum bonus. In fact, a veteran could apply three or four times before they receive a full \$1,500.)

"I am thrilled that Governor DeWine and the Ohio Legislature have fully funded this program so that all who served during the Afghanistan conflict receive the Bonus they have earned. This bonus is a wonderful form of gratitude, like a heartfelt 'thank you' from the citizens of Ohio. We at the Department of Veterans Services are doing everything we can to encourage all eligible veterans and service members to apply." — **Maj. Gen. (U.S. Army, retired) Deborah Ashenurst, ODVS Director.**

Bonuses for U.S. military members date back to the post-Civil War era. The Ohio Veterans Bonus was approved by Ohio voters via a constitutional amendment in 2008 (see below). As far as bonds that have been issued to support the program, \$50 million was issued in the first quarter of FY2011, \$15.7 million-plus was issued the first quarter of FY2012, and \$18 million was issued in the fourth quarter of FY2014, for a total of \$83,731,677.60.

Apply for your bonus today: [www.ohiovets.gov/veteransbonus](http://www.ohiovets.gov/veteransbonus)

## Ohio Veterans Bonus Notes:

- The Ohio Veterans Bonus program received 770 applications in FY2023, requiring a payout of \$401,220.
- A total of 677 claims were paid in FY2023.
- As previously mentioned, the Bonus has paid out nearly \$78 million on more than 97,000 claims in its existence. Most of that has been supported by bonds.
- Based on data available from the VA and other sources, there are approximately 32,000 Afghanistan veterans in Ohio.

According to the Ohio Revised Code, Article VIII: Section 2r. (D) (7) (E): "On retirement of all of the obligations issued under this section and payment of all valid claims for cash compensation made within the time limitations under this section, the department shall make a final report to the general assembly. Any balance remaining in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts compensation fund or the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts compensation bond retirement fund shall be transferred or disposed of as provided by law."

**The Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF)** grants a tax-exempt payment to military service members injured in combat as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States serving after October 7, 2001, and to individuals diagnosed with post-traumatic stress while serving after October 7, 2001. The amount of a MIRF grant is \$500. This benefit used to be a one time payment, but has recently been updated to allow veterans to apply for the benefit one time each fiscal year in Ohio, for up to 3 years total. If you are a surviving spouse or dependent, you can still apply; you will still need to provide all required information with the initial application, including an executor or administrators of the estate of such "eligible individuals," since you'll be applying on behalf of the service member. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for processing. During June and July, delays in processing and delivery can be expected due to the end of the fiscal year. You can get the application and have a service officer assist you in filling it out – come to our office. The MIRF grant is not taxable income, nor is it based on income you currently receive.

A VA Pension Debt Notification has been issued identifying discrepancies in data matching resulting in overpayment's for VA Pension in some cases. These low-income waived debts are typically identified as significant hardship. The VA has recognized the hardship and distress that these pension debts may cause and has paused the collection of all established pension debts and the establishment of new pension debts while they determine the path forward. The VA has stated "reaching out directly to affected Veterans and survivors to let them know that pension debt collection has been paused while we pursue options for relief – and we will keep them updated throughout every step of this process." If there are any immediate concerns or questions the VA encourages those with debt questions to call 1-800-827-0648.



# The VSC from January 2024 - June 2024 continued

**VSC Outreach through June.** On March 21 the VSC held a Death Benefits Seminar at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Jefferson. In a collaborative effort with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, we provided close to 200 veterans and/or their family members with information regarding VA benefits and commonly unknown tasks that can be done ahead of time to reduce the burdens on family following death. Due to the large amount of community interest, we will be conducting another seminar on June 17, 2024 at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles in Jefferson from 6 to 8 p.m. Keep watch for more details via our website, Facebook, and newspaper ad inserts!



*The*  
**Legal Aid Society**  
of Cleveland  
*Since 1905*

On May 16, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland will be hosting a special legal clinic for veterans and their families to discuss civil matters. This clinic will be available by appointment. The VSC will publish the event on our Facebook page with guidance for requesting an appointment soon. Availability will be limited.

Also on May 16, we invite you to attend the 3rd Annual Rite of Passage Ceremony. The Ceremony is an event dedicated to the graduating seniors in Ashtabula County that will be heading into the military following graduation. During the event, all veterans in attendance will stand and provide these young men and women with their first salute! The ceremony is open to the public and all are strongly encouraged to come and support our future war fighters! This year, the event will take place in the Geneva High School Auditorium from 6 to 7 p.m. We will have an amazing veteran guest speaker that is a resident of Geneva and a former teacher of over 20 years in the Geneva school system. The VSC will be accompanied by the Blue Star Mothers who will issue the new recruits their red, white, and blue graduation cords. Additionally, we look forward to having the Young Marines provide Color Guard services for the event. We hope to see a great turnout for this third year!

## RITE OF PASSAGE CEREMONY

*Honoring the commitment to service the youth in our community has chosen to make.*

Ashtabula County's 3rd Annual  
Rite of Passage Ceremony  
May 16, 2024 • 6-7 p.m.  
Geneva High School Auditorium  
1301 South Ridge Rd., E.  
Geneva, OH 44041

*"Veterans helping veterans"* Presented by the Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission in Collaboration with the Blue Star Mothers of Ashtabula

**The Easter Holiday Voucher Program** has been canceled for this year due to costs associated with the VSC moving locations later in 2024. Keep watch for details regarding the move. Once we are officially in our new building, located at 1709 E. Prospect Road, Ashtabula, we will be scheduling a Ribbon Cutting to show off the new digs to our community!





# MONTHLY RAFFLES

REMEMBER, we are a free resource to the veteran community and we have all of the knowledge and resources at our disposal to provide you with the best possible outcomes!

The VSC continues to hold monthly raffles in an effort to entice our veteran community to stop by and allow a Service Officer to complete a benefits well-check.

If you, or your organization would be interested in donating gift cards or tangible gift items to this program, please reach out via phone or email. Thank you in advance for your considerations!



**DECEMBER 2023 WINNER:** Matt Welch of Windsor is the winner of the final raffle of the year for December 2023. Matt joined the US Navy in January 2001 at the age of 20. He turned 21 during boot camp. He graduated with the Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois on September 7, 2001. He served as a Navy Corpsman at the Naval Submarine Base Hospital in Groton, Connecticut. When he went out to the fleet, he served aboard the USS McInerney FFG-8 at Naval Station Mayport and aboard the USS Cape St George CG-71 in Norfolk, Virginia. Upon leaving active duty, he transferred to the Connecticut Army National Guard as a medic (91W then, now 68W). In 2006, he moved back home to Ohio where he transferred to the Army Reserve component Inactive Ready Reserve. He received an Honorable discharge in March 2012. Matt and his family now

live in Windsor where he continues to serve as a fire fighter, advanced EMT, and as a member of the local American Legion. Matt will be taking home a \$50 Giant Eagle gift card donated by Rolling Thunder Ohio Chapter 2, a \$25 BP gas card, provided by the Veterans Service Commission, a \$25 Circle K gas card donated by Miquelina Cox, widow of veteran Dennis Cox, two \$25 certificates donated by Becker's Restaurant, and a metal POW/MIA sign donated by Veteran, Guy Korvig.



**JANUARY 2024 WINNER:** John Steadman of Lenox Township is the winner of the January 2024 Raffle Giveaway. John was in the Navy for 10 years, serving from 1976 to 1980 and 1982 through 1988. He was discharged as a Opticalman Petty Officer 1st Class, from NTC Great Lakes, IL. He retired from Dalin Mold & Machine as a tool & die maker and now he resides in Lenox Township with his wife of 25 years, Lynn. John is now enjoying his retirement. He also enjoys fishing, hunting, and spending time with family. At the veteran's request, there is no photograph provided. John received a \$50 Giant Eagle gift card donated by Rolling Thunder, Inc. Ohio Chapter 2, a \$50 VISA card, provided by the Vietnam Veterans of America, a \$25 Circle K gas card donated by Miquelina Cox, widow of veteran Dennis Cox, and two \$25 certificates donated by Becker's Restaurant.

**FEBRUARY 2024 WINNER:** Richard Rice of Jefferson is the winner of the February 2024 Raffle Giveaway. Richard served in the US Army from November 1967 to July 1970. During his time in service, he made the rank of SP5 and served as an Air Traffic Controller with 322nd Aviation Detachment with service in Vietnam from June 1969 through July 1970. Mr. Rice has been married to Carolyn since 2008 and they currently reside in Jefferson. He has two chihuahua's that he keeps spoiled rotten. He enjoys helping his wife around the house and doing yard work. Richard has two grandchildren, one of which, served in the Marine Corps, while his newest grandchild is now one year old. Richard received two, \$25 Giant Eagle gift cards, donated by the Geneva VFW Auxiliary Post #6846, a \$25 Circle-K gas card, donated by Miquelina Cox, widow of veteran, Dennis Cox, a gift basket, donated by Goodwill Ashtabula, and two tickets to the Heroes & Legends concert on July 28, 2024 with Craig Morgan and the United States Army Musical Outreach Band, "As You Were!"



**MARCH WINNER:** Will be selected in our April 3 Board Meeting.

## FUTURE PLANNED EVENTS OF 2024



### July

- Heroes & Legends Concert starring Craig Morgan with a guest performance provided by the United States Army Musical Outreach Band "As You Were" will take place on July 28 at Yankies & Goblin Amphitheater! Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.ticketweb.com>, then search for Salute to Americas Veterans.

### August

- The Veterans Promise Ceremony at the Ashtabula County Fair in Jefferson, will take place on Thursday, Aug. 8. We are still working on the time of the event, so keep watch for more information!

- D-Day Conneaut at Township Park in Conneaut, OH will take place from Aug. 15-18.

### September

We will schedule another Death Benefits Seminar during the work day later in the month. The date, time, and location have yet to be determined.

### November

- The 2nd Annual Veterans Day, Veterans Appreciation Ceremony will take place on Nov. 7. The time and location will be posted this summer. Keep a look out!

- The Thanksgiving/Christmas Holiday Voucher Program will be decided prior to our 3rd Quarter Newsletter. We will list how much and through what period of time we will be conducting the program at that time.

# 2024 VA Compensation Rates Table

The Ohio War Orphan Scholarship (What You Need to Know). The Ohio War Orphan & Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship (WOS) program provides financial assistance to the children of veterans killed in combat or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict. WOS covers a percentage of tuition and general fees at public colleges and universities and a portion of these charges at eligible, private colleges and universities. The award amount for WOS varies from year to year based on the number of eligible applications (for the 2023-2024, school year, WOS covered 83% of tuition and general fees at public colleges and universities and awarded \$6,490 to applicants attending private colleges or universities). WOS is

VA Compensation Rates - Effective December 01, 2023								
Percentage	Rate							
10%	\$	171.23						
20%	\$	338.49						
	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	\$ 524.31	\$ 755.28	\$ 1,075.16	\$ 1,361.88	\$ 1,716.28	\$ 1,995.01	\$ 2,241.91	\$ 3,737.85
Veteran & Spouse	\$ 586.31	\$ 838.20	\$ 1,179.82	\$ 1,486.88	\$ 1,861.28	\$ 2,161.01	\$ 2,428.91	\$ 3,946.25
Veteran, Spouse & 1 Child	\$ 632.31	\$ 899.28	\$ 1,255.16	\$ 1,577.88	\$ 1,968.28	\$ 2,283.01	\$ 2,565.91	\$ 4,098.87
Veteran, NO Spouse & 1 Child	\$ 565.31	\$ 810.28	\$ 1,144.16	\$ 1,444.88	\$ 1,813.28	\$ 2,106.01	\$ 2,366.91	\$ 3,877.22
Additional Child Under 18	\$ 31.00	\$ 41.00	\$ 51.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 72.00	\$ 82.00	\$ 93.00	\$ 103.55
Additional School Child Over 18	\$ 100.00	\$ 133.00	\$ 167.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 234.00	\$ 267.00	\$ 301.00	\$ 334.49
	Non-Service Pension		Aid & Attendance		A&A Housebound			
	Single	Married	Single	Married	Single	Married		
	\$ 1,379.25	\$ 1,806.17	\$ 2,300.75	\$ 2,727.42	\$ 1,685.50	\$ 2,112.34		
SMC-K	Widow's Pension		\$ 925.17		DIC \$ 1,612.75			
\$ 132.74	Housebound A&A		\$ 1,806.17		w/A&A add \$ 399.54			
	Aid & Attendance		\$ 1,478.58		w/HB A&A add \$ 187.17			
					8 Year Rule \$ 342.46			

renewable for up to 10 semesters (15 quarters). For more information, visit <https://higher.ed.ohio.gov/students/pay-for-college/ohio-grants-scholarships/wos/wos>, or come by our office for assistance. There is an annual deadline for applications of May 15. So, if you would like to apply, contact us TODAY!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## Days to observe in the coming months

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month.

May 27 is Memorial Day.



March 25 is Medal of Honor Day.



April 9 - National Former POW Recognition Day



March 29 is National Vietnam Veterans Day.

April 14 - Air Force Reserve Birthday



April 5 is Gold Star Spouses Day.



April 23 - Army Reserve Birthday



May is National Military Appreciation Month.

May 13-17 - Armed Forces Week





# VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS IN ASHTABULA COUNTY

*There are many organizations throughout our county that support both, our local veterans and our community at large. Many of these organizations are looking to increase their numbers. If you are a veteran or the dependent of a veteran, you could potentially become a member and join their missions. Here are a few. This list will grow over time.*

## ASHTABULA, OH

### AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

POC – Ken Draper

(440) 228-3528 • Email – roadkingcop@gmail.com

*The purpose of the American Legion Riders is to participate in community services and other ceremonies that is in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion. To promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest. To use our Association to promote and support programs of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, community services and Veteran's Organizations. The Legion Riders also provide assistance to Veterans in the local area who are in need of financial, services or any other type of assistance that the membership can provide.*

### ARMY NAVY UNION 411

POC - Paul Anderson

(440) 650-2562 • Email - pwjander@roadrunner.com

*The Army Navy Union 411 is home to 103 regular members and nearly 75 Auxiliary members located within Ashtabula. Join us today!*

### DAV BOB SWANSON CHAPTER #39 OF ASHTABULA COUNTY

Email - davch39@gmail.com

Mailing Address - PO Box 574, Andover, OH 44003

*DAV Meetings are held the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 6:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 103, 1804 W 19th St., Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 and VA claims assistance is available. The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) is a Veterans Service Organization for those who served our country's armed forces and were wounded or injured during that service and were Honorably Discharged or Under Honorable Conditions. The motto of Disabled American Veterans is: "Fulfilling Our Promises to the Men and Women Who Served." We are closed for Winter from December – February.*

### FEED OUR VETS

POC - Tracy Bidwell • (440) 813-5131

*Feed Our Vets is a once-a-month food pantry for Veterans, spouses and family. We are open every third Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m.*

### MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Email - lukejr68@gmail.com

Mailing Address - c/o Tom Lucas, Jr.

Adjutant; 3105 Jefferson Rd., Ashtabula, OH 44004

*Veteran's Service Organization for Honorably Discharged Marine's and FMF Corpsman and Chaplains. Other Armed Forces Veterans are welcome as Associate Members. Meetings for Pvt. Henry Kalinowski Marine Corps League Detachment #782 of Ashtabula County, Ohio are usually held the FIRST SATURDAY of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the American Legion Post #103 located at 1804 W. 19th St., Ashtabula, OH 44004.*

### MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

POC - Lisa Dibble

(440) 344-1822 • Email - pvthentrykalinowskimcla@gmail.com

*The purpose of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary is to band together in comradeship the members of the Auxiliary, and to create a bond of comradeship between this Auxiliary and the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps League. We are seeking the Mothers, Wives, Sisters, Daughters, Nieces, Granddaughters and Cousins of Active Duty, Reserve and Honorably Discharged U.S. Marines to serve and aid those Marines who are or have served us. We usually meet the SECOND Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Ashtabula Township Hall, located at the southeast corner of Route 20 and Route 11, 2718 NRE. Ashtabula, OH 44004.*

### U.S. VETERANS MC ASHTABULA

POC - Josh Honaker

(216) 408-2837

Email - usvmc.ashtabula@gmail.com

*U.S. Veterans MC Ashtabula is a motorcycle club comprised of 100% all veterans from all branches of service. We are a registered non-profit 501C (19). Our mission is to aid and assist veterans and active duty military. Truly "veterans helping veterans"*

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #943

POC - Ernie Anderson (Quartermaster)

Email - vfwpost943@gmail.com

Facebook - @VFWPost#943

Website - vfw943.org

*The VFW Regulars meet the first Monday of the month, unless it's a holiday at 7 p.m. at our post. The VFW Auxiliary meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We currently have bingo every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Karaoke every Friday at 7 p.m. Both events are open to the public.*

### YOUNG MARINES

POC - Amy Piotrowski

(440) 812-0126 • Email: amymariepio@gmail.com

Facebook: Ashtabula County Young Marines

Website: youngmarines.org/unit/ashtabulacounty/page

*The Young Marines is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) youth education and service program for boys and girls, age eight through the completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines organization began in 1959 with one unit, and has grown to over 270 units with over 9,000 youth and almost 3,000 adult volunteers in 41 states, and affiliates in other countries. The Young Marines focus on Leadership, Honoring Veterans, and Drug Demand Reduction. They participate in many events throughout the county annually including parades, Toys 4 Tots, volunteering with Blue Star Mothers and Feed the Vets, camp-outs and historic trips.*

### OhioMeansJobs - ASHTABULA COUNTY

*A group of public, private and non-profit agencies and partner organizations that have joined forces to create a coordinated system to provide workforce services to job seekers.*

*A resource room is located in the center which offers free use of computers, phones, and printers for use by job seekers. Career counseling and employment assistance are offered. All veterans are given Priority of Service. Veterans' employment representative, Michele Slanina (US Navy veteran) is available by appointment. Please register in OhioMeansJobs.com by creating a job seeker profile, or call (440) 350-2490.*

## CONNEAUT, OH

### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #2836

POC - Catherine Glosser • cagcatherine@aol.com

*The VFW meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Optimist Club, located at 514 Harbor Street in Conneaut. Join our team and help the veterans of Conneaut!*

## GENEVA, OH

### THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #124

Physical Address - 115 Park St., Geneva, OH

Mailing Address - P.O. Box 150, Geneva, OH

Legion Phone Number - (440) 361-8076

POC - Don Branford - (440) 223-2247

Email - legionpost124@outlook.com

### THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS

POC - Jennifer Reshetar

(440) 339-8280 • Email - president.oh57@bluestarmothers.us

Address: PO Box 482, Geneva, OH 44041

*The Blue Star Mothers of America are a non-profit, nationwide organization consisting of local chapters of mothers, and other family members of military men and women. The oath sworn to protect our nation taken by our sons and daughters has led us to serve as well. Our organization works to provide support for veterans at home and active military and families in any way we can. We also welcome mothers who have never had a child serve but are committed to supporting our Military and Veterans. We meet the 3rd Monday of the month in the Geneva VFW at 6:30 p.m.*

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #6846**

POC - Ron Stettler (Commander)

(440) 466-3127 • Email - vfw6846@outlook.com

*The VFW meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at 76 Depot St. Geneva, OH.***KINGSVILLE, OH****AMERICAN LEGION NEAL POST #743**

Address: 2606 East Center Street (Rt 20), North Kingsville, OH

POC - John Pildner Jr. (Commander) • (440) 813-4981

Dale Hayes (Vice Commander) • (440) 994-9641

Will Runyan (Adjutant) • (440) 228-6023

Email: nealpost743@gmail.com

Facebook: American Legion Neal Post 743 • Website: nealpost743.com

Neal Post is a small dynamic Legion Post of approximately 50 members with service from WW II (3 members) through the current War on Terror. Our reason for being is to serve our fellow Veterans and our community. We meet at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month with all sessions being open to all Veterans and Community members. Events on our yearly calendar include Three Chaplains Recognition, Armed Forces Day/Echo Taps Ceremony\*, Flag placement on Veteran Graves at 8 cemetery and community locations, 3 Memorial Day Ceremonies, Flag Day Retirement Ceremony\*, August Post Picnic, Veterans Day Ceremony\*, Veterans Day Dinner, Pearl Harbor Day Breakfast, and Wreaths Across America placement and Ceremony\*. (Events marked with \* occur at and with the generous cooperation of Greenlawn Memory Gardens in North Kingsville.) Our Honor Guard has the privilege to lead Final Military Honors for all Veterans when asked.

**ORWELL, OH****AMERICAN LEGION POST #719**

Address: 215 N. Maple St., Orwell, OH

POC - Roger Anderson

(440) 473-6280 • (440) 862-7866 • (330) 367-7628

Serving the Grand Valley and surrounding areas of Ashtabula, Trumbull and Geauga. Legion meetings 2nd Tuesday of the month; Auxiliary meeting 1st Tuesday of month. **Upcoming Post Events:** Reverse Raffle/Chinese Auction Saturday, February 11, 2023, 5 p.m. Tickets \$35 each, \$1,000 Main board, only 100 tickets sold. Spaghetti Dinners Thursday, January 19, 2023 and every third Thursday following, from 4-7 p.m. All you can eat for \$10, Kids under 5 eat for Free. We are currently looking for Veterans, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion wanting to give back to the Grand Valley area. It is time for the next generation to take over and operate our Post. No experience necessary. Rewarding opportunity. Learn at your own speed. Mentors are available.

**THE MUSTANG STABLE**

POC - Deliarose Marroquin (Ms. M) • (440) 805-4545

The Mustang Stable is Grand Valley Local Schools' community learning center. The Mustang Stable's mission is to provide resources, opportunities, and hope to the Grand Valley Community. Resources at The Mustang Stable include clothing, shoes, hygiene products, and school supplies. The Mustang Stable is open to anyone living in the Grand Valley School District.

**ROCK CREEK, OH****VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST #4953**

Address: 3276 N. Main St., Rock Creek, OH

POC - John Dyrz (440) 563-9699

The VFW meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Every Wednesday, there will be a Queen of Hearts Drawing, and on Sundays, we congregate to watch NASCAR or the sport of the season and enjoy one another's company.

**OUT OF COUNTY SUPPORT****AKRON, OH**

THE ROLLING THUNDER® CHAPTER 2 OHIO

MAILING ADDRESS - PO BOX 485, LAKEMORE, OH 44250

EMAIL - EKMAURIC69@GMAIL.COM

Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. at VFW Post 3383, located at 690 W. Waterloo Rd, Akron, OH 44314. Rolling Thunder® Ohio Chapter 2 is an all-volunteer, POW/MIA awareness organization made up of citizens who are dedicated to helping disabled, hospitalized, and homeless veterans from all wars. Our members are professional, blue-collar workers, students, veterans, non-veterans, and motorcyclist, non-motorcyclist all coming together to work on common veteran issues.

**Veteran Owned Businesses  
in Ashtabula County!**

To support our local veteran owned businesses we have some listed below.

If you would like to have your business advertised through us, email us at [ACVSC@ashtabulacounty.us](mailto:ACVSC@ashtabulacounty.us).

**Greg's Custom Wood Creations**

Greg Peterson (Army Veteran)

Hand-crafted custom wood designs. No CNC

Find us on Facebook

Email: [kdp237@yahoo.com](mailto:kdp237@yahoo.com)

Contact number: (216) 970-8217

**KL Diesel Equipment**

Keith &amp; Lisa Knoll (Army Veterans)

A wrench for every problem

Address: 3245 US Highway 6 • Rome, OH 44085

Contact number: (440) 563-5569

Email: [knl\\_diesel@yahoo.com](mailto:knl_diesel@yahoo.com)**Shoreside Plumbing, LLC**

Jim Prentice (Navy Veteran)

Servicing both residential and commercial needs in Ashtabula, Lake and Geauga Counties.

Address: 2217 Callendar Road • Rome, OH 44085

Contact number: (440) 563-9230

Website: <https://www.shoresideplumbing.com>**TNT Archery & Outdoors**

Tom Lucas, Jr. (Marine Corps Veteran)

Archery - Guns - Ammo

If we won't use it - we won't sell it!!

Find us on Facebook

Email: [lukej68@gmail.com](mailto:lukej68@gmail.com)

Contact Number: (440) 813-3914

**VSC WEBSITE!** Find our website at [ashtabulaveterans.com](http://ashtabulaveterans.com) for a lot of great information about the services we provide. From there, you can request a service officer, take a poll to tell us how we're doing, or leave feedback about the Commission to the Director. There is a calendar on the homepage where you can see different events that the VSC is involved in over the next several months. We have created a new content page with a direct link to the Ashtabula Veterans Task Force calendar where you can find veteran centric events happening across the county! There is also a Tribute Page that is dedicated to the veterans of our county! All you have to do is provide a picture of yourself or your loved one in service uniform with the conflict served during, and the city in the county that you are affiliated with, and we will update our site with it.

**Please follow us on Facebook @AshtabulaVSC. From here, you will see all of our current events as well as any valuable information that we have to share that could benefit you as a veteran.**